

Head – Head (1970)



Artist: Head

Title: Head

Year: Year

Format: LP

Label: Buddah

This is probably the only electronic album you'll ever find on the Buddah label. This was a rather mainstream and crappy label, with too many bubblegum acts like The Ohio Express on it, but to be fair they once had Captain Beefheart, to lend a little credibility, but we can understand why Beefheart quickly left that label, because he was too radical for that label's conservative tastes (I mean had he tried recording Trout Mask Replica for that label, he'd get kicked off immediately).

Now for Head, this is by far the most unusual and trippy album you'll ever find on that label. The LP also came with a coloring book, but now too often now missing (likely because the owner of the LP had a kid who actually used it as a coloring book), unfortunately my copy is missing the book. Each of the three extended cuts all have drug references in their titles, "Cannabis Sativa", "Methedrine" and "Lysergic Acid Diethylamine". Nik Raicevic was the guy responsible for this, he was an electronic musician from Los Angeles who realized that Moog music would reach a dead-end if it consisted of little else than Switched-On Bach clones.

So everything he did was his own, but since this was the early days of electronic music, it tends to be rather avant garde and trippy, so don't expect Jean Michel Jarre here (although Jean Michel Jarre was recording in 1970, with a single called "La Cage" which was much more musique concrète than anything you expect from Oxygene). Each of

these extended cuts consists of weird synth droning, space sound effects and just plain weirdness, with a minimalist influence at times. This stuff obviously didn't please the folks at Buddah, probably too concerned with trying to keep The Ohio Express credible (which they never were), so they kicked Nik Raicevic off. Actually the real reason was the label wanted to keep drug references from their label (which sounded too much like what happened to MGM Records when Mike Curb took over the label). But that didn't stop him, he simply formed Narco Records and released four more albums, each of them all worth having if you like off-the-wall electronic music. (Proghead72 RYM)

Track Listing

1. Cannabis Sativa
2. Methedrine
3. Lysergic Acid Diethylamide

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